

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-49, 51-53, 56-59, 62-65, and 67-68 are canceled. New claims 69-74 are added. Claims 50, 54-55, 60-61, and 66 are pending in the application and are in form and condition for allowance.

1. The Pending Claims Satisfy the Requirements for Patentability under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

In order to expedite allowance of the application, the applicants have imported the limitations of claims 58 and 59 into claim 50. Claim 59 was not rejected under 35 USC §§ 102 or 103; consequently, this amendment obviates the §§ 102 and 103 rejections of claim 50 and the claims that depend therefrom.

Likewise, the applicants have imported the limitations of claim 59 into claim 66, thereby obviating the §§ 102 and 103 rejections of claim 66 and the claims that depend therefrom.

2. Double Patenting

In response to the non-statutory terminal disclaimer, the applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer, disclaiming the portion of the term of the instant patent which extends beyond the term of US Patent 6,309,633. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the stated double patenting rejection.

The applicants note that claims 59-60 were rejected only on the basis of this double patenting rejection. Thus, submission of the terminal disclaimer leaves these claims free from rejections. As noted above, the limitations of claim 59 have been imported into claim 50; consequently, the applicants have canceled claim 59. Claims 60 and 61 are amended to depend from claim 50 and are therefore free of rejections and are in form and condition for allowance.

3. 35 USC § 112 Rejections

In order to expedite allowance of the application, the applicants have canceled claims 62-65 and 67-68, which were the subject of 35 USC § 112 rejections set forth in Section 3 of the Office Action.

4. Corrected Filing Receipt

The applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for pointing out the misspelling of Dr. Muthukumar Ramaswamy's name on the filing receipt. The applicants will submit separately a request for a corrected filing receipt.

5. Fees Payable

Submitted herewith is a check payable to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks in the amount of \$130.00 for filing the Terminal Disclaimer. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount necessary to the entry of this amendment, and to credit any excess payment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4365 of Moore & Van Allen PLLC.

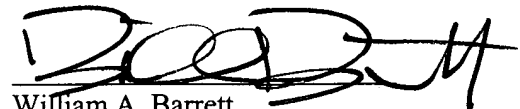
6. Conclusions

The pending claims are now in condition for allowance. In the event that any issues remain incident to formal allowance of the application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 286-8104.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



William A. Barrett
Registration No. 42,296
Attorney for Applicants
Moore & Van Allen
Telephone: (919) 286-8000
Facsimile: (919) 286-8199